

## 2013 GSFL Rules and Regulations

1. **Practice:** Practice start date will coincide with NHIAA Rules. Coaches cannot have organized practices or contact as a team prior to the designated date of start of practice. The 10-hour no-pad rule has also been adopted by the league. However, camps are NOT included. NHIAA coach's handbook states that a team is allowed to run a conditioning program as long as no footballs or football equipment is used, and there is no running of plays, etc.\*\*  
  
**\*\*The Rules Committee can provide clarification should questions arise.**
2. There must be at the very least an EMT present prior to and throughout each game.
3. There must be a least **one certified official** present to start a game.
4. Home Team will notify of any changes in game times, location, jersey colors, etc., no later than the Wednesday prior to game day.
5. Legal Fields - Due to the competitive nature, all efforts need to be in place for goal post(s) are in place. Field size needs to be regulation size.
  - If you do not have an option, a mutual agreement is acceptable. Otherwise, the alternative is to move to another site (the team with the issue will need to align the refs).
  - Field issues need to be addressed the Wednesday prior to the scheduled game.
6. **The Granite State Football League teams are broken out as Varsity and Junior Varsity Team levels for grades 6 through 8.** The Varsity Team should consist of those players of age, size, and similar ability level and should be composed of, mainly, 8th graders. The JV Team should consist of those players that are of lesser age, size and are less experienced.
7. **It is the strong intention of this league that players on the Varsity Team DO NOT play on the JV Team and that the teams are treated as two separate teams. If players are playing in BOTH games for numbers reasons, the team shall notify the opposing team's coach PRIOR to the start of the game with the information on those players.**

**If a player STARTS in a Varsity game, he/she is ineligible to play in the JV game UNLESS there are 15 or fewer players on the roster. The non-starters shall be utilized first, regardless of their position, to meet the number of 15 players.**

**Addendum 2/4/08**

Varsity playing JV - Numerous issues of starting Varsity playing JV. *See rule in handbook -*

Put forth on Rosters initial for rosters before Labor Day and every game

If a player starts in the Varsity game, he/she cannot play in the JV game unless 15 or less players are on the roster. Use non-starters first, regardless of position, to meet the number of 15

The final decision was that if a player starts in the Varsity game, he/she cannot play in the JV game unless there are 15 or fewer players on the roster. Use non-starters first, regardless of position, to meet the number of 15

What is the minimum number of players (roster size) to play? If a program has less than 26 players involved, that team has the option of NOT fulfilling obligations of a JV team. Again, notify the Head Coach of the opposing team by the Monday before the game

**Addendum 9/30/10**

JV rosters are set as posted on the "Web Site." Any changes, involving a non-posted JV player playing in the JV game must be approved by the opposing team prior to the game. Any violation of this rule will cause a forfeit of the JV game and also a forfeit of the Varsity game if the player in question played in the Varsity game as well.

Permanent changes to the JV list once the season starts must be communicated and approved by the league Board of Directors and then posted on the Web Site.

**Addendum 8/29/11**

This addendum is adopted as of today. If someone has a special circumstance they can send an email to the rules committee. Please email me or Rules Committee member for any clarification. **BOTTOM LINE:** League wants two (2) separate teams where possible with numbers. Please send updated rosters to the Web Master as needed per this Addendum.

A team can only use swing players if they have 32 or fewer players, and then a definition of a swing player is defined by the previously posted rules listed again below.

If a team moves a player up or down, it must be posted on the Web Site by the Wednesday prior to the game, and can be reviewed by the Rules Committee.]

A non-approved swing player who has been rostered for 2 or more Varsity games is ineligible for JV playoffs.

### **Addendum 7/15/13**

Any team with 36 or more players (not injured) will not be allowed swing players. If a team has 35 or fewer players on any given week then they will be allowed to have swing players. The Varsity Roster will have 18 players on it and the balance of the players will be JV players a team may then swing down as many varsity players as needed to bring the JV team up to 18 players. Varsity players that are swinging down are supposed to be **nonimpact** players and supposed to be used in the game if needed. The thought behind this is that they have already played in a game and it is not the intent to the league to have players playing in two games a day.

The last JV roster submitted by October 5<sup>th</sup> (after five games have been played) will be frozen for purposes of identifying JV players who will be eligible for the JV Play-offs. Swing players who are abiding by the above rules may play in both Varsity and JV playoff games. The Varsity play-off games this season will be on Saturdays and the JV Play-Off games will be on Sunday.

8. The GSFL uses a TDY or equivalent size football.
  
9. **Granite State Football League will adhere to the NHIAA Rules of Football, with the exception of the following amendments:**
  - a. For Both A and B Games, Quarters (4), 10 Minutes in length; the clock is run by the National Federation Rulebook. (Not running time.) The offense will have 30 seconds to put the ball into play. A 5-yard penalty will be assessed after a delay warning has been given. (Note: for games that may be running long, and, if both coaches agree, running time may be used.)
  - b. Each time will have three (3) 60-second time outs per half.
  - c. In the event of a tie at the end of regulation, play NHIAA overtime rules (10-yard line in).
  - d. There should be a minimum of two (2) officials for each game and one **WILL** be patched. No game can start without at least one (1) patched official. When utilizing a volunteer, he or she will wear an official's jersey.
  - e. In the event that something comes up during a game that is not outlined in the GSFL bylaws then the game managers will revert to the NHIAA rulebook.

## **Zero Tolerance Policy**

### **EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS**

**The Granite State Football League has agreed that there will be a ZERO TOLERANCE for fan misbehavior at all football events. This includes, but is not limited to, booing, shouting at officials or arguing any call, expressing negative behavior, negative comments, threats, and obscene gestures to players, coaches or officials. This behavior is unsportsmanlike and will NOT be tolerated.**

**Cheering in a positive fashion, for both sides, is highly encouraged. Many officials and coaches are volunteers, and we should all appreciate their efforts and support them, setting a good example for the children.**

**Any spectator who does not behave appropriately (as directed above) will be asked to leave, according to the following steps:**

- 1. Official(s) will identify violators to the coaches or vice versa.**
- 2. Official(s) confer with both coaches, one of whom will then approach the spectator and may give a warning or ask them to leave. If the spectator is not recognized by either coach, the home coach will speak to him or her.**
- 3. If the decision is made for the spectator to leave, play will not resume until he or she has left the facility. If he or she refuses to leave, his or her team will forfeit and the game will be over.**

**Please help us foster good sportsmanship, and encourage positive experiences for our youth.**

**The following towns/organizations are members of the Granite State Football League and have agreed upon the above-referenced guidelines: Bow, Concord, Gilford, Hartford, Hollis-Brookline, John Stark, Kearsarge, Merrimack Valley, Monadnock and Pembroke.**

